

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Application No. 10/817,153
Attorney Docket No. Q80941

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. By this Amendment, claim 2 has been canceled. Thus, claims 1 and 3-12 are all the claims pending in the application. Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims define patentable subject matter.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 12 is allowed. Claims 2 and 4-6 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 8-11 to include the subject matter of claim 2. Also, claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form. Therefore, claims 1 and 3-12 are in condition for allowance.

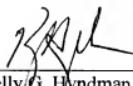
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Applicant herewith petitions the Director of the USPTO to extend the time for reply to the above-identified Office Action for an appropriate length of time if necessary. Unless a check is attached, any fee due under 37 U.S.C. § 1.17(a) is being paid via the USPTO Electronic Filing System (EFS). The USPTO is also directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for

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the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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